



HOLY FAMILY CATHOLIC ACADEMY
2323 CHEYENNE STREET
IRVING, TEXAS 75062
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Holy Family Catholic Academy welcomes each child in Jesus' name, developing within its students, a love for God, learning and others.

August 2021

Dear Parents,

I pray that each of you and your families are healthy and enjoying the last few days of summer break. We are excited to welcome our students and families back to campus for the 2021-2022 school year.

As stated in scriptures, "If God is for us, who can be against us?" Romans 8:31. It goes without saying that the COVID-19 pandemic has been a formidable challenge for all. Throughout the pandemic and continuing into the plans for this school year, we have been guided by many authorities, including medical professionals, the CDC, Dallas County Health, and the Diocese.

As you are aware, at both the local and national levels, there has been a recent sharp increase in COVID-19 cases and hospitalizations due to the more transmissible Delta variant. The fight against COVID-19 has changed due to the highly contagious Delta variant. As we enter this new chapter in the pandemic, we must look out for those who are most at risk. A core tenet of Catholic Social Teaching is to care for the vulnerable. Until we have more data regarding the variant's effect on elementary children in unmasked situation, we must be cautious and work to protect the vulnerable.

Given this perspective and effective August 9th, Holy Family Catholic Academy will require masks while indoors for all (vaccinated and unvaccinated) students, faculty, and staff for the first two months of school. We will reevaluate this decision at the end of September in order to gather data about the transmissibility of the variant within our school population.

We believe that this decision allows us to start the years as normal as possible. Students will attend school-wide Mass, attend field trips, be able to participate in athletics, switch classes and enjoy the outdoors without masks, should they choose.

Dallas County has changed the policy for those needing to quarantine as a result of being a close contact from six feet to the entire classroom. Our policy helps to ensure learning continuity for our students because, with masks, fewer people will need to quarantine. This is amplified by the fact that the school will not be offering eLearning options during isolation or quarantine.

WAIVER

All students, faculty and staff must sign the Assumption of Risk Form

MASK REQUIREMENTS

ALL STUDENTS, FACULTY, AND STAFF

During the regular school day, whenever indoors, masks are required. If a student does not bring a mask, he or she will be sent to the office to acquire one. There are no exceptions to this requirement.

OUTSIDE

Students, faculty, and staff will not be required to wear a mask outside. This includes outdoor recess, outdoor PE, and outdoor lunch.

CHANGES IN MASK REQUIREMENTS

Based on data at both the school and local level, mask requirements may change throughout the year. Even if the mask requirement changes, all students should have several masks available during any given school day.

VACCINATED STUDENTS, FACULTY, AND STAFF

Vaccinated students, faculty, and staff will not be required to quarantine if deemed close contacts with an individual who test positive for COVID-19.

If a student is already fully vaccinated and would like to avoid any potential future quarantine due to close contact, they must show proof of vaccination to the Nurse's Office. Parents should email a copy of the vaccination card to sdavis@hfca-irving.org and wait for a confirmation email from the Nurse's Office.

QUARANTINE

In the event of a positive COVID-19 test among either students or faculty/staff, those who are vaccinated and have voluntarily submitted their COVID-19 vaccination card to the school nurse will not need to quarantine if they are deemed to be in close contact with an individual who tests positive for COVID-19.

VISITORS

Visitors to campus will only be permitted on a limited basis. Visitors, such as parent volunteers, must be approved by administration and Safe Environment trained. All visitors, regardless of vaccination status, must wear a mask when inside a school building.

Lunch

Lunch will be in the classroom or outdoors if possible. Please sign into [Wholesomefoods.com](https://www.wholesomefoods.com) to set up an account for a hot lunch. Students may bring their lunch as well. Microwaves will not be available. Parents may not bring lunches after dropping off their child. If a child forgets his/her lunch a "Lunchable" will be provided for \$3.

SCHOOL EVENTS

For school events, such as Parent/Teacher Organization (PTO) meetings, Open House, etc., all those in attendance must wear a mask.

DAILY HEALTH CHECK

Holy Family will not be conducting electronic health checks, nor will temperatures be checked at the door. However, we ask for your cooperation in completing this daily health and temperature check on your own in your home.

Before you send your child to school, please ask yourselves the following questions. If the answer to any of the below questions is YES, please do not send your child to school.

- Do you have a fever over 100.0 or chills?
- Cough?
- Shortness of breath or difficulty breathing?
- Fatigue?
- Body aches?
- Unusual headache?
- New loss of taste or smell?
- Sore throat?
- Heavy congestion/runny nose?
- Nausea/vomiting/diarrhea?
- Recent travel outside the USA?

If a student experiences any symptoms during the school day, he or she will be sent to the Nurse's Office. The student's parents will be called and asked to pick the student up immediately.

SCHOOL CLOSINGS OR CLASS, GRADE-LEVEL QUARANTINE

There may be situations that necessitate temporary class, grade level, or school closure due to positive COVID-19 cases at the school. Parents should be prepared for this in the event that it occurs. While actively working to prevent positive cases through mitigation practices, in the event that HFCA will need to transition to an eLearning model for all students, we are fully prepared.